



DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

From Sweeping Plains to Jewell Sea

FROM THE DISTRICT GOVERNORS DESK

Hello fellow Lions,

I hope you all had a great Christmas and New Year with all your batteries refreshed and ready to go again.

It has been rather quiet since my last report with only a few Club visits and of course the festive season.

MEMBERSHIP

Our membership figures are abysmal to say the least. Last report we had a net loss of 4. Today we have a net loss of 14.

To this point we have inducted 45 new members and dropped a whopping 59 for a net loss of 14. At the same time last year we had inducted 84 new members and dropped 74 members for a net gain of 10. I cannot accept the excuse that it is the economy, the time of the year or any of the other usual excuses because other Districts are increasing membership so it must be something peculiar to District 201 N1. Only 24 out of our 65 clubs have inducted new members since July. At the same time last year 36 clubs had inducted new members. So what is happening? Has our get up and go got up and gone? Are we really trying as hard as we would have ourselves believe that we are trying to attract new members. We have a great ad campaign going on TV at the moment that is attracting a lot of hits but we are not converting them into new members. Here we have perspective new members presented to us on a platter and we still cannot attract them. Why not?

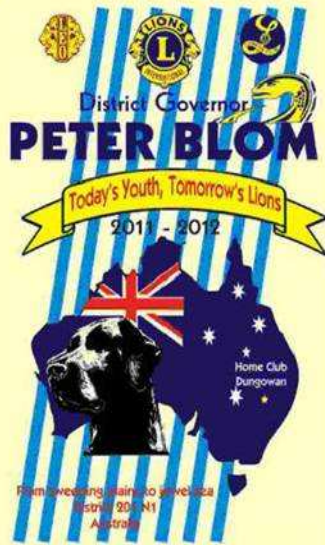
On one of my visits to a Club last year I was talking to a Lions member about another service club of which he was a member. Not long after that I received information about this organisation in the mail together with a few old copies of their magazine. I have received this on two occasions. I have been contacted by phone on a few occasions. I was invited to their Christmas Party. I have been invited to have a few social drinks with some of their members and they keep in regular phone contact. They are not heavy handed pressure calls. It's just a social call and they ask if there is anything else I want to know about the organisation. I do not feel pressured in any way and I consider a number of these men friends now. I wonder how many of our Clubs go to this extent when they receive a lead.

Lions, getting new members involves work. Lots of people are not just going to walk through the door any more! They have to be invited. They have to be made feel welcome. They have to be made feel at home. They have to be made feel wanted. They have to be made feel useful. They have to be made feel important. In other words they have to be made feel part of the family. This cannot be left to one Lion. Every Club member must help and play a part.

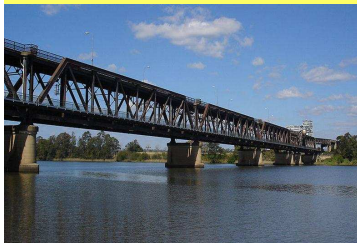
So with a new year upon us I am asking all Lions to try that little bit harder to attract new members. Believe you can do it. I know we have the dedicated Lions out there who CAN do this. I believe you can do it. Do you?

In the last Newsletter I asked Clubs to do a number of things for me. The response was very disappointing. I don't know if Lions do not read the Newsletter or if they just could not be bothered. Either way we have a problem. Here are the things I asked you to do:-

Continued page 2



201N1
2012 CONVENTION



GRAFTON

12th, 13th & 14th
OCTOBER 2012



Friday 4th May to Monday 7th
May 2012

Perth Convention
50th Anniversary of Lions in Western Australia

BEST OF
Western Australia



Lions 201 N1 District Governor Peter Blom following the Dedication of seating at the Lions Park Lookout to the memory of Maclean Club's deceased Lions.

Story page 2



EDITOR

Brian Bourke

Welcome to another year and the January-February edition of the 201N1 District Newsletter.

Lions members throughout the District have been very busy over the Christmas-New Year period.

Several clubs have forwarded articles for inclusion in the District Newsletter. It's good to read what our fellow Lions are doing in their local areas.

There are also several articles from our Cabinet members and their various portfolios. Please take the time to read them and keep informed.

newsletter@lionsdistrict201n1.org.au

I am always happy to receive your articles so please send them when you can. Until next edition...enjoy Lions
Brian Bourke
Editor.

http://www.lionsclubs.org.au/201n1/district_newsletters.htm

<http://201n1.lions.org.au/>

MACLEAN LIONS

Photo Page 1

On Wednesday, 16th November, Maclean Lions and Leo Clubs welcomed District Governor Peter Blom, accompanied by his wife, Lion Carmel, for his official visit.

At a special function, chaired by President Alan Cunningham, at 4.00 p.m. at the Maclean Lions Park Lookout, family members and members of the community joined members of the local Lions Club when the District Governor dedicated newly installed seating to the memory of deceased Lions Gordon Thompson, Lee Wiggins, Robert Coe ('Coco'), James (Jim) Willis, Nick Price, Terry Cording and Alan Willis.

The brief service was led by Chaplain Lion Jeannie Pienaar and wreaths laid by Judy Coe and Jan Price.

At the Club Dinner which followed, the District Governor challenged members to plant a tree/s in aid of the International President's Tree Planting Programme.

Lion Carmel outlined her Project for the year, being support for Father Chris Riley's "Kids Off the Street" Programme.

from Page 1

FROM THE DISTRICT GOVERNORS DESK

AUTHORITY TO FUNDRAISE

I asked you to forward a copy of this to the Cabinet Secretary. Very little response

ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT

I asked you to ensure that all Electrical Equipment was tested and tagged. No way of knowing the response.

ACTIVITY REPORTS

I asked that all Clubs submit the Activity Report from the LCI Web Site. – No response on this one. 20 Clubs still refuse to use this.

TREE PLANTING

Trees are being planted but if they are not being reported on the right Activity Report they are not going into the count so who knows where we are on this one.

WESTPAC RESCUE HELICOPTER

I asked for all donations to be advised to the Cabinet Secretary. Very little response.

If you think I am a little despondent you are dead right. I need the clubs to help the District because they are the District.

I hope my report can be positive next time and I believe with your help it will be.

Cheers
Peter "Happy" Blom
District Governor 201 N1 2011-12



Chairman M.D. Council IPDG Peter Clarke presents his Banner to DG Peter at the Glen Innes Convention

DISTRICT GLOBAL LEADERSHIP

PDG Gerard Cross

Our world, for many reasons, is fast changing and as Lions Members we cannot help but ponder - where will this change take us?

Will our Lions Clubs as we know them today be a thing of the past, with all activity individualized? Will somebody identify a need, send out a tweet and presto there's a flash mob to meet it? Will the public have apps for requesting eyeglasses, books or other services? Will this change how we raise monies, or how we hold conventions? Once needs and service can be met through the internet - what will Lions become? Will we have a changed vital function?

Realising that change is inevitable in the way we operate led Lions to launch - [Meeting point](#) - a bridge between Lions across continents. If you have any need or a spare resource and you would like the lions of the world to know just go to this page and post it there. We truly believe that this could be the way we would operate in the future. A one point stop to plan your activities and the futuristic way in which we could share our resources. However, to make use of this you would have to post your need or resource yourself.

End of another Calendar Year and commencement of the second half of our Lions year signals a commencement of training for an incoming Club Board and also for a new Cabinet.

I have received Material relevant to training of Region/Zone Chairmen and together with PDG Michael Mc Grath would hope to visit all 6 Regions to enhance performances at this level and as necessary to their successors, for each of these most important positions.

Dates for this training are yet to be set however I would hope that it can begin in early March by which time 2012 - 2013 Cabinet Officers will be known and your Club Boards will be close to finalisation. Invitations will be extended to those Cabinet Officers and should any Club Members wish to attend we will certainly welcome them to our Sessions.

All Cabinet Officers (current and Incoming) will be welcomed to each of these training Sessions.



Boggabri Drover's
Do you have a caravan, motor home, camper, 4x4, ute, tent or swag?
Then get ready for the annual Boggabri Drover's Campfire Weekend.
~ 27th - 28th - 29th APRIL 2012 ~



210N1 DISTRICT CONVENTION....GRAFTON

GRAFTON 12, 13 & 14th October 2012





**201N1
DISTRICT CONVENTION**

**DISTRICT GOVERNOR
DEYANN MCDONNELL
2012**

Dragon Boats, Vintage Cars, Escorted Tours, ABC Radio Museum, Jacaranda Blooms, 😊 Laughter, * Golf, ✓ Bowls, 🍷 Sandwich Seminars, lots more to activities to enjoy.

**→ Registration forms available soon.
PO Box 213 Grafton NSW 2460**

BINGARA LIONS

Bingara Lions Club, along with the NAB staff and Gwydir Shire Council set the scene for a huge community Christmas celebration.

As the first of anything goes there is always problems we didn't anticipate however the community really got behind the Lions club and everything went off without the usual hitch.

Singers and performers from all over the district came to do what they do best and enthused the crowd into singing all our favourite carols.

Lions members handed out free candle lights to the crowd that gathered in the Roxy Theatre. Santa made a big impression on the children handing out sweets and taking orders for their Christmas toys.

The Giant Tree, provided by the Lions Club, stood in the middle of Fay's Park. Turning on the lights donated by the NAB staff, was a duty President Steve Adams was only too happy to perform.

It was a fabulous night attended by the community and one we are only too happy to repeat in 2012.



All the Lions members are only too happy to stand behind our new banner and say thank you to Bingara Community for all the support so generously given in the years past.

AUSTRALIAN LIONS FOUNDATION

PDG Mick McGrath

This has certainly been an unusual year for Clubs in our District receiving ALF Grants.

To my knowledge only two Clubs in our District have applied for an ALF Grant in this current year. Congratulations to the **Lions Club of Bonville-Sawtell whose application for \$6,650.00 was approved at the Trustee's Meeting in November.**

Last year 6 Clubs in our District were successful with 7 grants totalling \$24,935.00.

To the Lions Clubs in our District, please be aware that this Foundation is one that they might consider if seeking some additional finance for a particular project they have in mind. Up to \$15,000 can be granted if a project meets the criteria. For example, if a Club has a community project that they may be putting \$4,000 towards the total cost, they may be able to seek an ALF Grant for \$2,000. This then enables the Club to use \$2,000 towards some other project.

Give some thought to using this avenue to help fund a project. Please note that the **ALF Trustees will next meet in February and May** to process Application for Grants from Clubs.

A reminder that **ALF Awards** can be purchased and presented at any time during the year. These include:

- William Tresise Fellow Award \$2,000**
- Ian M Stockdale Award\$ 1,000**
- James D Richardson Honour Award\$ 500**



I take this opportunity to encourage Clubs in our District to continue to support the Australian Lions Foundation with annual donations. Clubs contributing a donation of \$250.00 or more will receive a banner patch. Perhaps the better way of supporting ALF is to recognise worthy Lions or Members of the Public with an ALF Award.

Please feel welcome to contact me for advice or assistance with matters relating to ALF. Further information can be obtained from the ALF Website www.lionsclubs.org.au/alf

MANNING RIVER LIONS

Manning River Lions has recently taken delivery of its new Volunteer Trailer. The trailer is designed to transport Lions equipment for service schemes and to advertise the presence of Lions in the community.

The trailer was purchased with Club funds as well as funds received from the Volunteer Grants of 2011.





YAMBA LIONS

SERVICE AWARD A SOURCE OF PRIDE FOR LION JIM

They are ordinary people who do extraordinary things every day. Lions club members across Australia and throughout the Clarence Valley are renowned for their community spirit, volunteer assistance and valuable social services.

Recently, a member of the Yamba Lions Club was rewarded for his contributions with one of the most prestigious honours Lions can bestow.



After being recognised for his outstanding services and involvement with the club, Jim Parlevliet was presented with the James D Richardson award by Lions District Governor Peter Blom on his official visit to the Yamba Lions Club.

And the gala ceremony was not the first time his commitment to the club was recognised, boasting a proud record which includes 22 years of service to Lions, spending three terms as club president and a board member for 19 years.

A builder by trade Jim was project chairman for seven years in which time he supervised and worked on local projects including the Yamba Lions barbecue shelter and the childrens playground in Lions park.

Jim also served as the organiser and tirelessly worked for Yamba's annual fishing festival and Yamba markets.

In 1996 he was presented with the holder of the key Membership award for drive for membership. In 2009, Jim received a 20 year monarch for 100% Attendance to Lions monthly meetings.

In awarding Jim the James D Richardson award for his service, dedication and loyalty to Yamba Lions Club and Lions International, the Yamba Pride, a.k.a the Yamba Lions Club members extend their warmest congratulations to Jim

LCIF

This month we celebrate Lions World Sight Day and our commitment to saving sight around the world. This month I am also happy to share with you a new health initiative.

I am sure you have heard of the deadly disease measles. The terrible truth is that 450 children die each day from this disease. You may not know that a devastating complication from this disease is blindness. This is just another reason that as Lions we join the fight to stop this disease to save lives and prevent childhood blindness.

Last year we joined the Measles Initiative, a collaborative effort of several leading organizations to eliminate measles. In less than 10 years, this August, the 1 billionth child was vaccinated through this initiative. While measles has been reduced by 78 percent since 2001, the World Health Organization estimates that decreasing support could result in 500,000 more deaths each year if the present progress rolls back to pre-2000 levels.

Our pilot year was a great success! Lions and our partners vaccinated 41 million children in four countries. Now we must expand these efforts to reach even more children in more countries. In a survey of Lions members, 90 percent expressed the desire to continue this program.

This is now possible thanks to a commitment by our partner, the Gates Foundation. The Gates Foundation is awarding us US\$5 million for the program this year, the largest single donation in our history. The Gates Foundation will do this by matching every US\$2 that we raise with US\$1. We have set a combined goal of providing US\$15 million toward this initiative.

I ask that you encourage your club and district to get involved. Please help us to meet our goal of providing US\$15 million for the Lions' Measles program this year. You can support this program at www.lcif.org/donate or [learn more online](#). Your donation is MJF eligible.

Serving today for a better tomorrow,
Sid L. Scruggs, III



WOOLGOOLGA LIONS

SES Training and assessment day. 27/11/11

The Woolgoolga Lions Club funded a raised platform stand for the Corindi Beach SES. Michael Hope attended the training day for the SES on Sunday at SES headquarters at Corindi Beach. There were 22 trainees present ranging in ages from 16 to over 60. The area covered by the participants in this exercises were from an area extending from Halfway Creek to Sandy Beach and from Glenreagh to the coast.

There were 4 teams set up on 4 stands. Each stand presented a new problem to the SES trainees. The raised platform stand (one of the four stands) was funded from Woolgoolga Lions. This raised platform is the only one available from Yamba to Nambucca and as far west as Glen Innes.

The four stands set up presenting 4 different problems to the trainees. They included:

- rescue from confined spaces,
- platform rescues,
- rescues of a person from a hole or drain, and
- rescue of a client from under a trailer or truck



Types for rescues undertaken by the SES include flood, storm and water damage and damage due to fallen trees. When the trainees join they undergo 12 months training before they can go on the job. Training includes roof training, boat skills, knot training and communication. Team building is an integral part of the training.

Michael was made very welcome and the Chief thanked Woolgoolga Lions for their valuable contribution to their training assets.

Lion Michael Hope with SES volunteers training on the raised platform stand funded by the Woolgoolga Lions Club



MARGARET RIVER LIONS RELIEF FUND

The devastating Margaret River Bushfires of 2011 have destroyed more than 30 homes and property in the Margaret River area.



N1 Lions are urged to assist, donations can be forwarded to N1 Treasurer for distribution to Lions District W2.

WOOLGOOLGA LIONS

Fire and Rescue NSW- Delivering batteries.

On Tuesday 29th Nov 2011 a good roll up of Lions witness the presentation of smoke detector batteries to the Woolgoolga Fire and Rescue of NSW. This continues the project of supplying, free of charge, batteries for smoke detectors to citizens of Woolgoolga by the Fire and Rescue brigade.

The Lions Members were welcomed by Captain Ray Webb and Sandy Linton, Engine Keeper. Ray emphasized how important this project was for the prevention of fires and saving of lives in this area.

The Members were given a demonstration by Robert (Bob) Hinds, a retained firefighter of the engine equipment available to the brigade men for fire and rescue operation. The role of these fire fighters and rescuers has changed considerably from purely fighting fires, to rescues in conjunction with the NSW Ambulance Service, fighting fires and dealing with hazardous material spills, such as oil, petrol and chemicals. They also help with vertical rescues using ropes and climbing gear. They put out bush and house fires and install smoke alarm batteries.

The team work in this group was very much in evidence when we watched how they worked together.

Afterwards the brigade members treated us to a bar-b-que and drinks and lots of interesting



YOUTH OF THE YEAR

Jennifer Bower



Youth of the Year Quest is well underway.

Already twenty seven clubs have held their club final pre-Christmas.

For those clubs still preparing to hold a club final, I remind them that the shut off date is 25th February 2012. Remember, the Club Registration form and the registration fee of \$120 must be submitted before a club final for that event to be valid.

After the club final the Winner Advisory form and the original Contestant entry form needs to be forwarded to the Region Chairman very promptly.

Any problems, call 6743 4218 or email

jenbethbower@yahoo.com.au

Jennifer Bower

District 201N1 Youth of the Year Chairman.

ARMIDALE DUMARESQ LIONS

On the 16th November, Armidale Dumaresq Lions, Lions Partners and Supporters of our contestants were privileged to witness some incredible prepared speeches, presented with enormous passion and commitment by our 2011 contestants :- Matthew Barton (Duval), Susannah Brown (PLC), Shirley Heap (O'Connor), Jessica Lewis (O'Connor), Georgia Thompson and Thomas Wyatt (TAS).

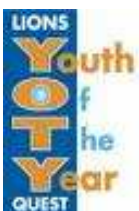
As a result of the high standard of candidates this year the judges—Gloria Cook, Chris Halligan and Ben Pickup /Linda Smith—had an extremely difficult job picking the winners.

2011 Public Speaking Winner was Thomas Wyatt

2011 The Dumaresq Club Youth of the Year Winner

Shirley Heap from O'Connor

Congratulations to all our contestants



2011 TREASURER

Peter Willis-Jones

Second Semi-Annual Dues are now due and clubs will now have received their accounts.

It was decided at the last cabinet meeting that a self addressed envelope should be sent with the account for the Annual Dues to avoid cheques being sent to the wrong place.

You should make the cheque for this account payable to **Lions District 201N1** and forward the payment together with your International Fees, made out to **Lions Clubs International**, in the enclosed self addressed envelope.

Yes, that's right. Both District and International payments should be sent to your Cabinet Treasurer in the one envelope, but must be made out to the correct account. Do not send payments to America or to Cabinet Secretary as this causes delays.

You don't have to have these payments moved at a club meeting before payment, they can be paid now and ratified at the next meeting. We need to ban k all payments so that we are able to pay the Multiple District by the due date.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.



PREMER LIONS

The Premer Lions Park Caravan Park is located at the intersection of Coonabarabran Road and Ellerslie Street Premer.

The park is pet friendly. The park has approximately 20 sites and of these 10 are powered. The amenities are adequate but fairly basic. The amenities and Tennis Club are used by the community so passing travellers have access to the park day and night.

Traffic noise, particularly coal trucks, are fairly constant throughout the day but it definitely quietens at night.

Premier is a very small village with a local store and school. No need to book - just turn up



TAMWORTH PEEL VALLEY LIONS

In 1994 the Lions Club of Tamworth Peel Valley Inc. instigated an award to honour people involved in Country Music who have used their musical talents to give community service in a voluntary capacity. Nominations are called from Lions Clubs throughout Australia and this year Colin (Cactus) Martens from South Australia was selected to receive the 19th P.V.L.C. Australian Country Music Community Service Award at the Tamworth Country Music Festival. Cactus was nominated by the Lions Club of Port Pirie Inc. in South Australia. The Award was presented by Peel Valley Lions Club president Terry Hill live on air on Volkswagen Amaro Tamworth Festival FM on Sunday 22nd January.



Cactus has spent countless hours over the years raising funds for numerous charities in the Port Pirie district including Heartbeat, Cancer foundation and Riding for the Disabled. When he is not using his talents to assist the local country music clubs he can be seen entertaining at Senior Citizens and Old Folks Homes, Laura Hospital, CARA Kids Camp and Crystal Brooks Possums Club for the intellectually Challenged Adults.

Cactus received a distinctive mounted Tamworth Dunny created by local renowned ceramic artist Fred Hillier and a cheque for \$500 which he will donate part to the Chemo Therapy unit at the Port Pirie health Service and the balance to Port Pirie Riding for the Disabled. Further information can be obtained from Lion Terry Hill on 02 67656042.

LIONSONOZ



Lionsonoz members continue to collect ring pulls...picture shows the latest load for recycling.

WALCHA LIONS

Lions celebrate 54 years

The Lions Club of Walcha celebrated its 54th birthday recently at the Bowling Club and Lions from across the region, including the newly formed Uralla club, came along to help them celebrate.

Mayor Bill Heazlett made a toast to the Lions International Organisation commenting on the strength to be gained from being part of a broader community and network.

He then took the opportunity to speak about Walcha Council's support of the network of Australia's Local Governments endeavour to gain constitutional recognition.

Mr Heazlett explained the two main reasons for this was to guarantee the continued existence of Local Government and to allow the Federal government to give funds directly to councils. He cited the previous Roads to Recovery funding of \$300,000 for the Walcha region as an example of how this direct funding can benefit the community.

Mr Heazlett also went on to say that the decision would need to go to a referendum, however, very few referendums have got up in Australia as not only is a majority of votes required but also a majority of State support.

Walcha Lions president Harry Broadbent gave his report and highlighted that it was 50 years since the Lions Club of Walcha built the Apsley Falls lookout, stairs and amenities.

District Zone chairman Peter Blom congratulated the Club on its 54 years of service to the community and invited them to reflect on all that they had achieved in that time.

Presentations of the years of service pins were made to 23 members with a collective 555 years of service between them; and the highest honour able to be given to a Lion, the Melvin Jones Fellowship Award, was given to Eric O'Keefe for his 25 years of service, during which time he has always been an active member and held nearly every committee position in the club.

Earlier this year this award was also given to John Wark and Ron Dyason. New member John Innis was then officially declared a Walcha Lion.



Lions Club President Harry Broadbent presents Eric O'Keefe with his Melvin Jones Fellowship Award

WOOLGOOLGA LIONS

Forty members and guests were entertained at a regular meeting of the club recently with visitors Alan Cunningham (2nd Vice Governor) and partner Maureen and George Priddle and Partner José from Maclean Club.

Club President Barry Kelly called upon Alan Cunningham to present a 100% Presidents Award to Gavin Kent for outstanding services for year 2009 – 2010. Members fully supported Gavin on the achievement as the award isn't given out lightly and is approved by the International President.

Guest speakers Adele Bennett and Ben Lamar were introduced and described their aspirations to produce a 24 minute promotional film on The Solitary Islands Marine Park and to be used as a National and International Promotion tool for Coffs Harbour. This will also be a major part of earning a Masters Degree.

Member Neil Currall decided he could grow a little fungus under his nose in support of Movember to support men's health issues and Tracey Cooper obliged in the removal. Needle and cotton was kept on hand in case of a slip up. Lions contributed \$2000-00 to the cause.



LEHP- Australia
Lions Eye Health Program
Empowering communities to save sight

Diabetic Retinopathy – Is someone you know at risk?

Diabetic retinopathy is a complication of diabetes mellitus that damages blood vessels inside the retina at the back of the eye. It commonly affects both eyes and can lead to **vision loss** if it is not treated.

People with diabetes mellitus (Type 1 and Type 2) have a higher prevalence for developing diabetic retinopathy.

Only half of the people with diabetes have a regular eye examination, and one-third have never been checked.

People with diabetes have a 25 times increased risk of vision loss over non-diabetics.

There are no early –stage symptoms of diabetic retinopathy. Vision loss may not occur until the disease is advanced. Late-stage diabetic retinopathy symptoms include: blurred vision, eye strain and headaches.

Effective management of diabetes mellitus, including better control of blood sugar levels, blood pressure and cholesterol, will help delay the development of retinopathy.

When diabetes is first diagnosed, regular eye examinations are recommended. Early diagnosis and treatment can prevent up to 98% of severe vision loss.

To find out more information about diabetic retinopathy log onto the LEHP-Australia website



AUTISM - LUGARNO LIONS

LIONS AWARENESS OF AUTISM

Below is an extract of a Newspaper article Placed in a Local Lugarno Newspaper by their LIONS Club and followed by a response from a stressed Mother.

Both are self explanatory and I urge you as a Service Club and as individuals to respond as requested in the Newspaper article.

For more Information Please contact me or you can contact Lugarno Lions Club Direct. PDG Gerard C

PDG Gerard Cross



THE MATH OF AUTISM

Autism -The numbers are alarming and speak for themselves.

1 in 5 Australians has a disability.

Every two hours, an Australian child is diagnosed with an intellectual disability. 64,000 Australians have autism. This rate has doubled over a five year period. Over 4000 children are diagnosed with autism by the time they are four.

Currently, children aged 5-14 have the highest prevalence of autism in Australia.

Almost 11,000 children aged between 6 and 12 have autism spectrum disorders in Australia.

Over half a million Australian families are affected by autism spectrum disorders.

85 per cent of children are diagnosed with autism once their learning difficulties are recognised at school.

Children who receive early intervention preschool therapies have a 1 in 3 chance of being able to enter the mainstream education system and go on to lead a normal productive life with little if any special support.

Intervention therapies effectively remediate the challenges of autism and they are able to function without experiencing limitations in their everyday activities.

It costs over \$30,000 annually for a child to receive early intervention therapies before they start school. That equates to up to \$180,000. Families currently foot that bill.

So what's the answer to this equation? Government funding. We urge all Lions Clubs in Australia to make representations to Federal Government to raise financial support for early intervention preschool autism education and therapy provided by health professionals to a minimum of \$30,000 per annum per child, claimable through Medicare and /or other government agencies.

We also ask Lions to see what they can do to help early intervention preschool autism spectrum disorders groups in their local areas across Australia. ASD groups in general are short of funding. Let us assist the 12,000 plus children under six who have ASD.

For more information about the Lions ASD Project, see Lions Club of Lugarno Inc. web-site www.lugarnolions.org.au .

Letters for Clubs to use to write to all levels of government across Australia to advocate for increased ASD funding are located on Lugarno Lions website.

To The Lugarno Lions Club Inc.

I am writing to you after reading the article in 'The Leader' titled "Lions will target autism".

I am writing to simply say THANKYOU THANKYOU and THANKYOU.

March 2010, saw the worst day of my life. It was the day that a doctor told us that our gorgeous son (who was 28 months old at the time), had Autism.

Our family has been under enormous strain and stress ever since.

Life was turned upside down, it became endless phone calls, appointments, doctors, forms, research etc. etc. etc.....all on top of our ongoing grieving.

Within 8 weeks of diagnosis I had an in home ABA (Applied Behaviour Analysis) Therapy running. We recruit, train and employ university students to come to our home and conduct the therapy. Our little man currently does 21 hours a week.

I applied through APRA to have my Superannuation released early on compassionate grounds and that gave us \$41,000.00 which funded the first year of therapy. That as well as the \$12,000 FAHCSEA funding has now been spent. We have spent well over that \$53,000 trying to help our son in the past 18 months. We are now using money borrowed from the Bank, and we are in enormous debt. Once that runs out our only option is to sell our home, or stop our Sons therapy. That terrifies me.

The only way I lay my head down each night is to know we are doing ALL we can to fight this monster - which is Autism.

We also have a gorgeous older daughter, who I know is heartbroken and suffers as well.

The emotional stress goes hand in hand with financial worries, worrying if you are doing enough? Too much? Etc. etc. No one seems to understand. Your marriage suffers as you try to get through each day.

As for me? I do not sleep. I have lost about half of my hair and I am covered in eczema - all thanks to stress. Yet I continue to fight, and will do everything I can to help my baby boy.

I have kept your article in my diary, and I just wanted to say 'thank you' on behalf of every family struggling like us. You are a wonderful organisation and your efforts are truly appreciated.

Please know if I can help you, or be a voice, talk at a meeting or give some insight from a mum / family perspective - please just let me know.

I hope one day in the future to be a family advocate for Autism. But for the time being my focus is my son. THANK YOU again Lions. You are all good people.

Warmest Regards,

Mrs S

TAMWORTH LIONS The Northern Daily LEADER

BOOKS, CDs and videos galore were almost running out the door of the Lion's club book sale in November.

Hardcover and paperback novels, children's books and cook-books were among the most popular items, according to book sale chairman Geoffrey Allen.

Mr Allen said the club was inundated with books for the sale during the past 12 months and was continuing to accept books while the sale was under way.



Hundreds attended the first two days of the week-long Lions Club of Tamworth Book Sale.

"People have been coming in with an armful of books to donate, having a wander around and then walking back out after buying an armful of books," he said.

All proceeds from the annual sale, which runs for another week, are donated by the Lion's club to local charities.

The 2011 beneficiary will be Tamworth hospital's Nioka palliative-care unit.

VANNERS

LionTom Cattell

For your information Caravan parks for future Cabinet meetings:

Cabinet Meeting Forster
24-26th February 2012
Forster Beach Caravan Park...
....1800 240 632
www.forsterbeachcaravanpark.com.au

Cabinet Meeting Maclean
25 to 27 May 2012
Maclean Showground (Van sites only)
\$20 per night...
Contact Laurie Fitzpatrick
....6645 4657

DG's DIARY

If you would like to find out when the District Governor is in your area or what his movements are please go the the 201N1 web-site...use the attached link.

<http://www.lionsclubs.org.au/201n1/DG'sDiary.pdf>



**LIONS CABINET MEMBERS / PARTNERS
BIRTHDAY GREETINGS**

3/01/2012	Pam Willis-Jones
10/01/2012	David Clark
14/01/2012	Brian McWhirter
22/01/2012	Hazel Mills
23/01/2012	Brian Sullivan
26/01/2012	Brian Bourke
30/01/2012	Kerrie Caterer
4/02/2012	Eileen Keitlinghaus
8/02/2012	John Finnie
8/02/2012	Brian Hemsworth
9/02/2012	Judy Moyer
10/02/2012	Ross Robertson
11/02/2012	Gwyneth Payne
12/02/2012	Bob Tibby
14/02/2012	Norma McKellar
18/02/2012	Peter Blom
23/02/2012	Chris Sharp

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**CONTACT INFORMATION
CHANGES**

Please note that the new contact information for PDG Gerard Cross
gjcimcross9@bigpond.com

YOUTH EXCHANGE & YOUTH CAMPS

Lion Lorraine Hemsworth

Two boys from Malaysia were hosted in N1 over the Christmas period. Jack and Wei Song arrived into Sydney on Sunday 18 December 2011 and then flew to Coffs Harbour where they were met by Lions Brian & Lorraine Hemsworth who delivered them to host family, the Caldwell's of Bowraville.

The boys stayed a night at the Hemsworth prior to Brian driving them via Dorrigo National Park to Ebor to meet up with 2nd host family - the Blom's. They enjoyed a Aussie Christmas and a couple more weeks in the west.

Mrs Ann Caldwell said "The boys enjoyed their short stay on a few hectares just out of Bowraville with the wallabies, kangaroos and cattle in the yard. We went to Carrols by Candlelight in Macksville which they thoroughly enjoyed, it was a big night as there were 5,000 people in attendance. They both made gingerbread men, which is something I would not have expected of 16 and 17 year old boys, but because they have not experienced it before they were fascinated. We did manage to go to Bellingen and Nambucca Heads where they painted a rock. We loved having them and intend keeping in touch with them".

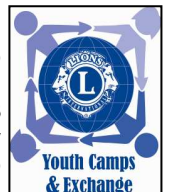


Jack and Wei Song and their artist talent displayed on the rock wall at Nambucca Heads

Hosting - a request has been forwarded to all Clubs encouraging members to think about hosting in July/August 2012. Clubs maybe able to share one or two youth. Names are required now to enable flights to be booked. **Plan now to host for 1 to 3 weeks for the July/August hosting - a family just like yours is needed!** There are many more youth from many more countries to arrive other than who is listed on the form so just contact me if you are interested.

Nominations are being sought for Australian youth aged between 16 years and still 21 years prior to departing in December of this year. Countries youth may wish to go to include The Scandinavian countries, England, Italy, Switzerland, Austria, Germany, Slovenia, France, The Netherlands, Belgium, Canada, USA, Japan or New Zealand.

Youth Exchange Website - Visit the Youth Exchange website as it is being updated regularly, including articles and photos from YOUTH EXCHANGE 2011/2012 hosting, camps and overseas



DG Peter's comments on YOUTH EXCHANGE

exchangees - www.lionsclubs.org.au/ye

DG Peter and Carmel welcomed Wei Song and Jack from Malaysia into their home on 23rd December 2011 in time to get organized for Christmas and the New Year.

The boys entered into the preparation by using their talents to decorate our Christmas Tree, assemble the Ginger Bread House and assist in the cooking.

Not knowing what the boys would like to eat we took them to the supermarket to choose food that they would like and so long as there was plenty of ham and chicken on the table they were happy.

The boys quickly became accustomed with the bar-b-q and enjoyed bar-b-queing every meal they could.

We introduced the boys to family and friends and were able to make comparisons with others of their own age in Australia.

They were amazed when they saw Keepit Dam and were allowed to go swimming. What is a natural experience for our young Aussies was not so for Jack and Wei Song preferring to stay on land. We quickly found out that there is a big difference between a good swimmer in Malaysia and Australia.

We were fortunate to be able to learn much about Malaysia as the boys were only too happy to tell us all about their homeland. But as with all young ones they were more than happy to "crank up" the computer, watch DVD's and play on their iPhones.

Both boys were extremely well mannered and most helpful around the house. We will look forward to keeping in touch with Jack and Wei Song in the future and wish them every success for their futures.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS and TRANSFERS

Member	Club	Sponsor
Peter BRADY	HALLIDAYS POINT	DAVID J NORTHEY
Maxine VINCENT	MANILLA	DAVID IAN HERIOT
Arther KEMP	VALLA	STANLEY JOHNSTONE
Beverly OLD	FORSTER TUNCURRY	PETER STRUCK
John INNESS	WALCHA	